



**OPASTCO**

**ORGANIZATION FOR THE  
PROMOTION AND ADVANCEMENT  
OF SMALL TELECOMMUNICATIONS  
COMPANIES**

January 28, 2003

***NOTICE OF EX PARTE  
PRESENTATION***

Ms. Marlene H. Dortch  
Federal Communications Commission  
Office of the Secretary  
445 12<sup>th</sup> Street, SW  
Washington, D.C. 20554

**RE: Federal-State Joint Board on Universal Service  
CC Docket No. 96-45**

Dear Ms. Dortch:

On January 28<sup>th</sup>, 2003, the Organization for the Promotion and Advancement of Small Telecommunications Companies (OPASTCO) sent the attached written *Ex Parte* presentation to Chairman Michael Powell, Commissioner Kathleen Abernathy, Commissioner Michael Copps, Commissioner Kevin Martin, Commissioner Jonathan Adelstein, and the members and staff of the Federal-State Joint Board on Universal Service. In accordance with FCC Rules, this notice and a copy of the attached *Ex Parte* presentation are being filed in the above-captioned docket.

Sincerely yours,

/s/Jeffrey W. Smith  
Jeffrey W. Smith  
Policy Analyst



## OPASTCO

ORGANIZATION FOR THE  
PROMOTION AND ADVANCEMENT  
OF SMALL TELECOMMUNICATIONS  
COMPANIES

January 28, 2003

*Ex Parte Presentation*

The Honorable Kathleen Q. Abernathy  
The Honorable Jonathan S. Adelstein  
The Honorable Michael J. Copps  
The Honorable Thomas Dunleavy  
The Honorable Billy Jack Gregg  
The Honorable Lila A. Jaber  
The Honorable Kevin J. Martin  
The Honorable Michael K. Powell  
The Honorable Bob Rowe  
The Honorable Nan Thompson

RE: **Federal-State Joint Board on Universal Service**  
CC Docket No. 96-45

As you know, the Organization for the Promotion and Advancement of Small Telecommunications Companies (OPASTCO) is a national trade association representing approximately 500 small incumbent local exchange carriers (ILECs) serving primarily rural areas throughout the United States. High-cost universal service funding is vitally important to OPASTCO member companies and to the rural consumers that they serve.

OPASTCO recently released the enclosed white paper "*Universal Service in Rural America: A Congressional Mandate at Risk.*" The paper outlines our views on universal service, in general, and more specifically, the issues surrounding the availability of high-cost funding to multiple carriers in rural service areas. The paper also lists six rural Universal Service Fund policy principles:

1. Rural consumers should have affordable telecommunications services, comparable in quality and price to urban areas.
2. Funding should be sufficient to provide for critical infrastructure in rural areas.
3. The Universal Service Fund is a scarce national resource. Therefore, supporting multiple carriers is in the public interest only when benefits exceed costs.

January 28, 2003

Page Two

4. The Universal Service Fund should not be used to create uneconomic competition.
5. All carriers receiving support should be held to the same service obligations and regulatory standards.
6. Funding should come from the broadest base of providers and services.

The Federal Communications Commission's November 8, 2002 Order has referred to the Federal-State Joint Board on Universal Service important issues regarding the rules that apply in areas where a Competitive Eligible Telecommunications Carrier has been designated. The Order also has asked the Joint Board to examine the process for considering applications for Eligible Telecommunications Carrier status and whether there should be federal processing guidelines. OPASTCO welcomes the opportunity to work with you as you move forward with this critical proceeding.

Sincerely yours,

/s/ John N. Rose  
President,  
OPASTCO

Attachment

cc: Staff members of the Federal-State Joint Board on Universal Service

## **CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**

I, Jeffrey W. Smith, hereby certify that a copy of the *Ex Parte* presentation by the Organization for the Promotion and Advancement of Small Telecommunications Companies was sent by first class United States mail, postage prepaid, on this, the 28<sup>th</sup> day of January, 2003, to those listed on the attached list.

By: /s/ Jeffrey W. Smith  
Jeffrey W. Smith

# SERVICE LIST

## CC Docket No. 96-45

Kathleen Q. Abernathy,  
Commissioner and Chair  
Joint Board on Universal Service  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12<sup>th</sup> Street, S.W., Room 8-B115  
Washington, D.C. 20554

Kevin J. Martin,  
Commissioner  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12<sup>th</sup> Street, S.W., Room 8-A204  
Washington, D.C. 20554

Michael J. Copps,  
Commissioner  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12<sup>th</sup> Street, S.W., Room 8-A302  
Washington, D.C. 20554

Bob Rowe,  
Commissioner  
Montana Public Service Commission  
1701 Prospect Avenue  
P.O. Box 202601  
Helena, MT 59620-2601

Nanette G. Thompson,  
Chair  
Regulatory Commission of Alaska  
1016 West Sixth Avenue, Suite 400  
Anchorage, AK 99501-1693

Chairman Michael Powell  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12<sup>th</sup> Street, S.W., Room 8-B201  
Washington, D.C. 20554

Lila A. Jaber, Commissioner  
Florida Public Service Commission  
2540 Shumard Oak Boulevard  
Gerald Gunter Building  
Tallahassee, FL 32399-0850

J. Thomas Dunleavy, Commissioner  
New York Public Service Commission  
Three Empire State Plaza  
Albany, NY 12223-1350

Greg Fogleman,  
Economic Analyst  
Florida Public Service Commission  
2540 Shumard Oak Boulevard  
Gerald Gunter Building  
Tallahassee, FL 32399-0850

Mary E. Newmeyer,  
Federal Affairs Advisor  
Alabama Public Service Commission  
100 N. Union Street, Suite 800  
Montgomery, AL 36104

Jonathan Adelstein,  
Commissioner  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12<sup>th</sup> Street, S.W., Room 8-C302  
Washington, D.C. 20554

Joel Shifman,  
Senior Advisor  
Maine Public Utilities Commission  
242 State Street  
State House Station 18  
Augusta, ME 04333-0018

Peter Bluhm,  
Director of Policy Research  
Vermont Public Service Board  
Drawer 20  
112 State Street, 4<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Montpelier, VT 05620-2701

Charlie Bolle,  
Policy Advisor  
Nevada Public Utilities Commission  
1150 E. Williams Street  
Carson City, NV 89701-3105

Peter Pescosolido,  
Chief, Telecom & Cable Division  
State of Connecticut  
Dept. of Public Utility Control  
10 Franklin Square  
New Britain, CT 06051

Jeff Pursley  
Nebraska Public Service Commission  
300 The Atrium, 1200 N. Street  
P.O. Box 94927  
Lincoln, NE 68509-4927

Larry Stevens,  
Utility Specialist  
Iowa Utilities Board  
350 Maple Street  
Des Moines, IA 50319

Carl Johnson,  
Telecom Policy Analyst  
New York Public Service Commission  
3 Empire State Plaza  
Albany, NY 12223-1350

Lori Kenyon,  
Common Carrier Specialist  
Regulatory Commission of Alaska  
1016 West Sixth Avenue, Suite 400  
Anchorage, AK 99501-1693

Nancy Zearfoss, Ph.D.,  
Technical Advisor to Commissioners  
Maryland Public Service Commission  
6 St. Paul Street, 19<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Baltimore, MD 21202-6806

Jennifer Gilmore,  
Principal Telecommunications Analyst  
Indiana Utility Regulatory Commission  
Indiana Government Center South  
302 West Washington Street, Suite E306  
Indianapolis, ID 46204

Michael Lee,  
Technical Advisor  
Montana Public Service Commission  
1701 Prospect Avenue  
P.O. Box 202601  
Helena, MT 59620-2601

Susan Stevens Miller,  
Assistant General Counsel  
Maryland Public Service Commission  
6 St. Paul Street, 16<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Baltimore, MD 21202-6806

Tom Wilson,  
Economist  
Washington Utilities & Transportation  
Commission  
1300 Evergreen Park Drive, S.W.  
P.O. Box 47250  
Olympia, WA 98504-7250

Billy Jack Gregg  
Consumer Advocate Division  
Public Service Commission of  
West Virginia  
723 Kanawha Boulevard, East  
7<sup>th</sup> Floor, Union Building  
Charleston, West Virginia 25301

Barbara Meisenheimer,  
Consumer Advocate  
Missouri Office of Public Counsel  
301 West High Street, Suite 250  
Truman Building  
P.O. Box 7800  
Jefferson City, MO 65102

Earl Poucher,  
Legislative Analyst  
Office of the Public Counsel  
State of Florida  
111 West Madison, Room 812  
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1400

Brad Ramsay,  
General Counsel  
NARUC  
1101 Vermont Avenue, N.W.  
Suite 200  
Washington, D.C. 20005

Ann Dean,  
Assistant Director  
Maryland Public Service Commission  
6 St. Paul Street, 16<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Baltimore, MD 21202-6806

David Dowds,  
Public Utilities Supervisor  
Florida Public Service Commission  
2540 Shumard Oak Boulevard  
Gerald Gunter Building  
Tallahassee, FL 32399-0850

Michele Farris,  
South Dakota Public Utilities Commission  
State Capitol  
500 East Capitol Street  
Pierre, SD 57501-5070

Anthony Myers,  
Technical Advisor  
Maryland Public Service Commission  
6 St. Paul Street, 19<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Baltimore, MD 21202-6806

Diana Zake,  
Technical Advisor,  
Texas Public Utilities Commission  
1701 N. Congress Avenue  
Austin, TX 78711-3326

Tim Zakriski,  
State of New York  
Dept. of Public Service  
3 Empire State Plaza  
Albany, NY 12223

Matthew Brill,  
Legal Advisor  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12<sup>th</sup> Street, S.W., Room 8-B115  
Washington, D.C. 20554

Daniel Gonzalez,  
Legal Advisor  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12<sup>th</sup> Street, S.W., Room 8-A204  
Washington, D.C. 20554

Jordan Goldstein,  
Legal Advisor  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12<sup>th</sup> Street, S.W., Room 8-A302  
Washington, D.C. 20554

Carol Matthey,  
Deputy Bureau Chief  
Federal Communications Commission  
Wireline Competition Bureau  
445 12<sup>th</sup> Street, S.W., Room 5-C451  
Washington, D.C. 20554

Katherine Schroder,  
Division Chief  
Federal Communications Commission  
WCB, Telecommunications Access Policy  
Division  
445 12<sup>th</sup> Street, S.W., Room 5-A426  
Washington, D.C. 20554

Katie King,  
Attorney  
Federal Communications Commission  
WCB, Telecommunications Access Policy  
Division  
445 12<sup>th</sup> Street, S.W., Room 5-B544  
Washington, D.C. 20554

Sharon Webber,  
Deputy Division Chief  
Federal Communications Commission  
WCB, Telecommunications Access Policy  
Division  
445 12<sup>th</sup> Street, S.W., Room 5-A425  
Washington, D.C. 20554

Dana Walton-Bradford,  
Attorney  
Federal Communications Commission  
WCB, Telecommunications Access Policy  
Division  
445 12<sup>th</sup> Street, S.W., Room 5-A314  
Washington, D.C. 20554

Eric Einhorn,  
Deputy Division Chief  
Federal Communications Commission  
WCB, Telecommunications Access Policy  
Division  
445 12<sup>th</sup> Street, S.W., Room 5-A425  
Washington, D.C. 20554

Paul Garnett,  
Attorney  
Federal Communications Commission  
WCB, Telecommunications Access Policy  
Division  
445 12<sup>th</sup> Street, S.W., Room 5-A623  
Washington, D.C. 20554

Anita Cheng,  
Assistant Division Chief  
Federal Communications Commission  
WCB, Telecommunications Access Policy  
Division  
445 12<sup>th</sup> Street, S.W., Room 5-A445  
Washington, D.C. 20554

Bryan Clopton,  
Mathematician  
Federal Communications Commission  
WCB, Telecommunications Access Policy  
Division  
445 12<sup>th</sup> Street, S.W., Room 5-A465  
Washington, D.C. 20554

Gene Fullano,  
Federal Staff Chair  
Federal Communications Commission  
WCB, Telecommunications Access Policy  
Division  
445 12<sup>th</sup> Street, S.W., Room 5-A623  
Washington, D.C. 20554

Greg Guice,  
Attorney  
Federal Communications Commission  
WCB, Telecommunications Access Policy  
Division  
445 12<sup>th</sup> Street, S.W., Room 6-A232  
Washington, D.C. 20554



Geff Waldau,  
Economist  
Federal Communications Commission  
WCB, Telecommunications Access Policy  
Division  
445 12<sup>th</sup> Street, S.W., Room 5-B524  
Washington, D.C. 20554

William Scher,  
Assistant Division Chief  
Federal Communications Commission  
WCB, Telecommunications Access Policy  
Division  
445 12<sup>th</sup> Street, S.W., Room 5-B550  
Washington, D.C. 20554

Diane Law Hsu,  
Attorney  
Federal Communications Commission  
WCB, Telecommunications Access Policy  
Division  
445 12<sup>th</sup> Street, S.W., Room 6-A360  
Washington, D.C. 20554

Qualex International  
Portals II  
445 12th Street, S.W.  
Room CY-B402  
Washington, D.C. 20554